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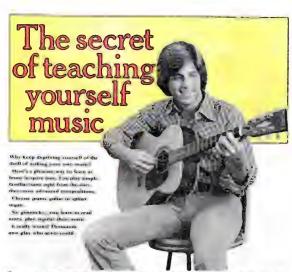
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STRENGTM, I VE MAD IT

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

## Mutant Mail-Box

Chris, Len, Dave, Sam, Karen, Petra and Mary--- congratulate you! "Warhunt" was everything a comic (for that matter, ANY dramatic) story should be. The pace moves rapidly, characterizations are continually improving as the saga of the new X-Men unfolds, the plot works well-a very successful issue.

Artwise, this issue is every bit as good as its predecessors Gil Kane's X-MEN covers have been really great, and this one was no exception. Dave Cockrum works well with every enker you give him, it seems, it should be interesting to see exactly what inker becomes "permanent" on this strip (if, indeed, any one does). In my humble opinion, the X MEN is one of Marvel's best magazines-and Dave Cuckrum's art is no smell factor in that opinion.

Colossus's concern for the other X-Man, and his obvious confidence in his own abilities .. Nightcrawler's further demonstration of his fast nating powers and his fast developing friendship with Cyclops, which has been demonstrated over the past couple issues. ..the Banshee, in this issue, proves himself to be able to think on his feet and only confirms my thoughts as to seeing the Banshee eventually become Cyclons's second-in-command. The Wolverine was pretty much ignored this go round, but I have no doubts that he'll eventually get some time in the limelight.

Professor Xavier was obviously distraught by Thunderbird's suicide (you have to call it that-Banshee could have stopped Nefaria) He was also pretty sharp with Cyclops on page 27. I'm wondering if Xavier will blame Cyke for Thunderbird's death -if so, it would be incredibly great story material, and also something of an X-Men first. Prof. Xavier has always been pretty much a sidelight character -he was never shown as having much emotional output, and was trapped pretty much in the role of regulating X-Men activities. I think things are beginning to change.

Whew-sarry to get so long winded, folks. But I think X-MEN is the best new magazine of this year. So, I leave

with two questions-Why did you spell Storm's real name "Orro" when in

GS X-MEN 1-and-only her name is "Ororo"? Bruce Canwell Meadows Rd RFD #2 Bowdoin, MA 04008

Whew, ourselves, Bruce-but don't feel bad about being long-winded, it's letters like yours that make all the stresses and strains and hassles and occasional disasters involved in putting out these bi-monthly spics well-worth the effort.

As to Professor X remaining in the background, you'll see as of this issue that that's no longer the case. The good professor is as much a part of the X-Men as any of his students, and we can assure you that whatever minor holocausts come down on their collective heads in days to come, they'll come down on Charles Xavier's head as well. And vice versa. Or something like that, anyway.

But you had to mention "Orro," didn't you? You had to go and do that? You had to go spoil a near-perfect letter. Well, to clear up any nascent controversy, the lady's name is Ororo, Okay? Okay. (Just goes to show that even our Pulsa-Pounding Proofreaders are as human as the next guy.)

Dear Marvel.

After reading X-MEN #95 1 found myself astounded that such an issue could be assembled. Every aspect of the issue was a masterpiace. First the story by Chris Claremont was great, with snappy dialogue, and just enough action. The Ani Men are interesting villains and make a good team.

Dave Cockrum's art was beautiful, especially pages 3, 18

and 26, I really like Dave's rendition of Cyclops and the Wolverine, not to mention the fact that I love Nightcrawler's costume

On the matter of Thunderbird's death, when I first reaized Thunderpird was dead I was disappointed and angry, but then something hit me. I remembered that you guys at Marvel strive to nut reality into your comics. And then I realized that in real life the good guys don't always come out of everything unburt or, as is the case with Thunderbird, alive And now I'm not so angry. Peace People

Steve Pauwels 41 Clifton Drive Simsbury, CT 06070

Len & Dave,

After rearing GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1. I was proud to see one of my people, an American Indian-America's First Citizens-become a member. But to my dissatisfaction, in XMEN #94, you started to oppress him The story and art were good, but I was angry to see Thunderbird treated harshly

But the clincher was in X-MEN #95. You killed him. Why was he chosen? Why Thunderbird? Tom Runningmouth

2523 Kimball Street Philadelphia, PA 19146

A serious question, Tom; and one which deserves an equally serious answer.

As Steve Pauwels' letter states, we here at Marvel strive to put a semblance of reality into our comic books. And, like it or not, Death-the fact of dying, of being killedis a part of that reality, just as it is a part of 'real' life. People live, people die; you may not want them to, it may hurt a lot; but they die just the same. Just as, in comics, Captain Stacy died, the Swordsman died, Junior Juniper died. And Thunderbird died, It happens.

Why Thunderbird? Because he was the weakest potential character in the X-Men. He had no powers which weren't duplicated by other members of the team-Colossus, or Nightcrawler, or Wolverine-and, harsh as it sounds, duplicated better. But worst of all, his character-as a character-had nowhere to po. All he was, all he really over could be, was a wise-cracking, insolent, younger, not as interesting copy of Hawkeye the Marksman in the Avengers-and if you have any questions as to the problems Hawkeye's been having as a character, just look at all the roles he's taken in the past ten years. Proudstar deserved a better deal than that, and he could never net it which is why he had to die Because, when you think about it, it was better that he die with honor rather than spend the rest of his comic-book life trying to force himsert into a persona he wasn't.

We're sorry Thunderbird had to die, too, Torn, but we also think it was for the best.

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### STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Since the Thanksgiving season is almost upon us, what could be more fitting than a sentimental little sonnet from me to you? (Actually, there are a zillion things that could be more fitting- but since it's my column-!)

### "THANKS" By Henry Wadsworth Lee

I'm thankful for our writers Whose Imaginations never fail. And I'm thankful for our artists Who I lustrate each tale. I'm thankful for our letterers Who or at the words we write And without our classy colorists We'd just be black and white I'm thanklul for our editors Who put it all together

And the gang that proofs each peerless page In every kind of weather I'm thankful for our printers So dependable and true And also for our auditors Whatever it is they do I'm thankful for our sales force Sailing every neighborhood, And I thank our competition For making us look good. Now here's to all of Marveldom I can I thank you enough, Yep, you're the ones I thank the most For reading all this stuff!





ITEM! We've got a crazy keboodle of bombastic bombshells to lay on va this time around, so let's get rolling right along, shall we?

ITEM! There's nothing better to brighten up a slow and sultry summer day than a friendly game of sock-it-to-'em softbailand its so much the better if Mighty Marver comes out as the wondrous win neri On a tumultuous Tuesday a week or so back Marvel-time (that a July in the real world) your Batty Bull pen broke its all-toolong losing streak by defeating, demo ishing, and otherwise destroying the rollicking representatives of ESQUIRE We're not saving it was all that difficult, but without the humble help of a certain bashful blueeyed Benjamın Grimm, we never would have done it!

ITEM! In a move daringly designed to direct your undivided attention to our pulsation PREMIERE and sensational SPOTLIGHT mags, we proudly present the two current features in each of these titanic titles! In MARVEL PREMIERE #28, the long-awaited, long-demanded "Legion of Morsters!" makes its devastating debut Not to be confused with the our tormer black-and-white mag with the

same name, this learsome feature is a special once-in-a-lifetime-team-up of Man-Thing, Ghost R.der, Werewo'f (By Night) and Morbius, The Living Vampire! And I that isn't enough to conjure with, MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #26 will be presenting an astounding adventure of that Aquarian Defender-the stupendous, savage Sub-Mariner! What's coming up after these frantic features-? Well, that would be telling So stay tuned, keep aiert, and keep reading! We'll splil the information somewhere You know how modest we are!



ITEM! And speaking of artistic triumphs, have you picked up the pulse-pounds premiere issue of HOWARD THE DUCK yet? If you've seen any of his solo sages in the back of GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING, you won't want to miss it! Frank Brunner, Tom Palmer and Steve Gerber have worked themselves to the proverbial bone to produce what must be the strangest team. up the Marvel Universe has ever seen. Don't miss the fantabulous first encounter of Howard and . Spider Man? And while we're on the topic of frantic firsts, don't miss the two more of our latest and greatest efforts - BLACK GOLIATH and OMEGA THE UNKNOWN You've never met OMEGA before, but all POWER MAN fans must certainly remember our twentyfoot tall titan who appeared in issue #'s 24 and 25 of Luke Cage's mag! After all, it was you who demanded that we give him his own title, True Bel ever Your wish is our command! And don't forget though STRANGE TALES IS now devoted to representing the best of the early Doctor Strange classics, WARLOCK's still soaring! In fact, he's moved into his own merely inagrificent hag white um Starlin, jester of air trades, continues working on a top secret project which he

plans springing on the Builpen towards the end of the year. We II let you know the details as soon as we find out, but while you're waiting, be sure to pick up that triumvirate premiere package HOWARD THE DUCK, OMEGA THE UN-KNOWN, and BLACK GOLIATHI They're sure to make comic book history!

ITEM! Who says comic book writers can only write comic books? Not ARCHIE GOODWIN nor STEVE ENGLEHART whose novelette-length prose pieces will be appearing in Pyramid Books' two-volume paperback anthology, WEIRD HEROES

ITEM! Have ya glommed the latest PAUL McCARTNEY AND WINGS album, "Venus and Mars," yet? If not, there's a cut ya just gotta hear! It's called "Magneto and the T lagure Magneto. tanium Man, "and if that s not enough to start the Bullpen blushing bright red, we don't know what is!

ITEM! Seems that everyone agrees that Marvel's still the greatest, 'cause the winners have just been announced in the annual SHAZAM awards, and the blushin' Bullpen walked away with so many of 'em that we needed a truck to get back to the office. The winners in all categories are: DRAMATIC DIVISION Best Writer: ARCHIE GOODWIN; Best Penciller-JOHN BUSCEMA, Best Inker DICK GIORDANO, Best Letterer JOHN COS-TANZA, Best Colorist: TATJANA WOOD: Superior Achievement by an Individual ROY THOMAS, Best Continuing Feature CONAN, Best Individual Story dammerung", Best Individual Short Story "Cethedral Perilous", Outstanding New Talent CRAIG RUSSELL HUMOR DIVISION Best Writer STEVE SKEATES Writer STEVE ON Best MARIE SEVERIN, Best MARIE SEVERIN, Best Best Penciller Inker RALPH REESE, Bas! Story par the Dead Baby", and, the Hall of Fame Award JACK KIRBY, Congrats to all the







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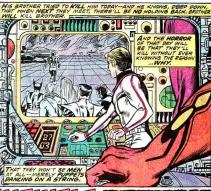














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